Chapter 5

こんにちは、サクラコージです
『青楼オペラ』第2巻、
手に取ってくださって
ありがとうございます！

AKANE...
YUKARI-CHAN ISN'T THAT KIND OF PERSON
BESIDES, YESTERDAY WAS A VERY IMPORTANT EVENT FOR YUKARI-CHAN, TOO
SHE'D HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN FROM DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT

WHAT IS IT, YUKARI?
NO...
I SUPPOSE I'M NOT HELPING ANYONE BY KEEPING QUIET ABOUT THIS
....AH,
Hmph
WELL...THAT'S TRUE

-NO-WAY...
HOW COULD THERE BE SOME ONE WHO RESENTS AKANE WHEN SHE'S JUST ENTERED THIS BUSINESS...
WHO WOULD ENGAGE IN THAT SORT OF BULLY -ING?
ISN'T IT BECAUSE SHE'S NEW?
YUKARI,
YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING SULKY SINCE YESTER -DAY.
DON'T TELL ME THAT UNEXPECT -EDLY, IT WAS YOU
YOU PULLED THAT PRANK BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T LIKE HAVING YOUR SHINZOU DEBUT NEXT TO THE NEW -COMER AKANE,
DIDN'T YOU?
It wasn't Yukari-chan!
WHA...

LAST NIGHT,
AFTER YOUNG MASTER OUMIYA LEFT,
I SAW AKANE GOING INTO THE ROOM WHERE WE STORE THE CLOTH -ING, ALONE....
AH....!
IS THAT TRUE, AKANE?
YE...YES,
BUT,
WHAT? IT WAS AKANE'S OWN SETUP?
HOW RECK -LESS!
WERE YOU TRYING TO CATCH THE EYE OF THE CUSTOMERS?
NO, HOLD ON A MOMENT
I DIDN'T PLAN THIS WITH THAT YOUNG MASTER
THERE'S NO WAY

THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD'VE.
SUPPOSE THAT YOUNG MASTER HADN'T MADE IT IN TIME.
THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD'VE KNOWN THAT IT COULD GO SO WELL.
THEN IT WOULD'VE TURNED INTO A HUGE PUBLIC EMBARRASSMENT.
IT'S JUST AS RIICHI SAID.
NEITHER AKANE NOR YUKARI WOULD DO THAT.
SFX. SLAM
OKAMI-SAN...
AH, THINKING ABOUT THIS MAKES MY HEAD HURT.

CHATTER
THE DEBUT OF OUR SHINZOU WAS NEARLY RUINED
WE'LL DEFINITELY FIND WHOEVER DID THIS. SO YOU BETTER PREPARE YOURSELF.
AH...
OKAMI-SAN.
SO IT'S SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

COULDN'T YOU PLEASE OVERLOOK THIS SOMEHOW?
AKANE?
AREN'T YOU ANGRY ABOUT THIS?
IF I JUST LET THIS GO THEN THERE'LL BE NO DISCI -PLINE
I DON'T CARRY ANY HARD FEELINGS ABOUT THIS INCIDENT
THANKS TO THAT YOUNG MASTER, THE PRO -CESSION ENDED SAFELY.
ANYTHING MORE THAN THIS IS JUST...
PLEASE
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

ONLY THIS ONCE, THO -UGH!
IF ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENS TO YOU TWO, I WON'T JUST LET IT SLIDE!
AKANE-CHAN'S VERY KIND.
Heh.
YUKARI -CHAN.
THANK YOU FOR EARLIER, RIICHIROU.
NO,
I ONLY DID WHAT WAS NATUR -AL.

IT'S SUCH A SPLENDID PIECE,
I NEED TO KEEP IT CARE -FULLY SO THAT ONE DAY I CAN WEAR IT AGAIN...
AN OIRAN WHO WOULD WEAR SOME -THING LIKE THIS A SECOND TIME WOULD BE A JOKE.
Hey!
KNOCK
MORE IMPORT -ANTLY
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH THIS?
HAH?!
ISN'T PROTECTING YOUR HONOR THE SPECIAL DUTY FOR THOSE FROM A SAMURAI FAMILY?
BUT...
SOMETHING EXPENSIVE AS THIS...
BUT TO WEAR IT JUST ONCE,
AND IF YOU RE-DYE IT YOU COULD WEAR IT COUNT -LESS TIMES...

IS IT THAT PRECIOUS TO YOU?
SOMETHING YOU RECEIVED FROM THAT YOUNG MASTER.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
IT'S NOT ...
LIKE THAT, BUT....
THAT PER -SON
ALREADY REALIZED THAT I'M FROM A WARRIOR FAM -ILY.

THAT MAN, WHO HATES THE WARRIOR CLASS,
MUST'VE THOUGHT IT'D BE FUN TO CONTROL A WARRIOR CLASS GIRL WHO HAD BECOME A PROSTITUTE.
AND YET
THE TIMES HE'S ACTUALLY DONE THAT IS
HE'S OVERFLOWING WITH COMPASSION?
.....!
BEHIND HIS ROUGH WORDS,
IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S REALLY FALLEN FOR YOU?
...THAT'S WHAT THE FACE THAT YOU'RE MAKING SAYS

EVEN IF YOU'VE BECOME A SHIN-ZOU,
YOUR HEART'S STILL THAT OF A SHELTERED YOUNG LADY, ISN'T IT?
OF COURSE, I'VE ALWAYS WISHED FOR THAT, BUT....
RIICHI....
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT WITH YOU

I'VE MADE A CERTAIN DEAL
WITH OUMIYA SOUSUKE.
EH....
THAT SHARP-EYED YOUNG MASTER HAS ALREADY REALIZED
THAT WE HAVE A MASTER-SERVANT RELATIONSHIP
IN EXCHANGE FOR HIM KEEPING QUIET I AGREED TO ONE OF HIS REQUESTS
IN THIS YOSHIWARA, THAT YOUNG MASTER
REQUEST...?
IS SEARCHING FOR A CERTAIN PROSTITUTE

IT SEEMS THAT UNTIL NOW, HE'S BEEN SEARCHING ON HIS OWN, BUT
THE REASON HE DECIDED ON YOU AS HIS FAVORITE
IS THAT IT WAS BECOMING DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO ENTER THE OTHER STORES
HE WANTED SOME-ONE TO GATHER INFORMATION AMONG THE PROSTITUTES FOR HIM INSTEAD
IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE OF A SUFFICIENT RANK TO GATHER THAT INFORMATION,
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT WAS NEEDED--
DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?

THAT COAT,
AND THE INCID
-ENT WITH THE
GO,
THEY WERE ALL
PART OF OUR
DEAL.
....AH,
SO THE RUMOR
THAT THE YOUNG
MASTER WENT PLAYING
AROUND ALL OVER
YOSHIWARA WAS
BECAUSE
YES.
AH, BUT,

USING MONEY, HE CAN OBTAIN THE THINGS HE WANTS.
THAT'S TRUE
HE'LL USE ANYTHING HE CAN.
IT'S MY OWN, SO I'LL TREA -SURE IT.
HOW VERY MERCHANT LIKE...
IT SEEMS THAT THE PERSON HE'S ASKING AFTER ISN'T A FORMER LOVER.
AT LEAST THE YOUNG MASTER ISN'T A CHEATER.
HE'LL SUPPORT YOU
AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.

NO,
THAT'S
JUST WHAT A PROSTITUTE IS
TO THAT MAN,
I'M JUST A LIVING DOLL HE BOUGHT WITH MONEY.
AH, THAT'S RIGHT. OJOU ALSO MENTIONED THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID.
IT'S LAUGH-ABLE FOR A PROSTITUTE
TO BE PULLED AROUND BY A CUSTOMER LIKE THIS

THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME THIS, RIICHI
PLEASE TAKE THAT COAT TO A PAWN -SHOP OR SOME -THING
SEIJIROU-SAMA ALWAYS WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD ABOUT HIS FEELINGS.
BUT...
EVEN RIICHIROU CAN BE KIND OF A BULLY SOMETIMES BUT...
I UNDERSTAND THAT I'M VERY IMPORTANT TO HIM
... IT CAN'T BE HELPED
I WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT EVER HAPPENED AFTER ALL
SFX: TWANG

BUT THAT
MAN WITH THE UNREADABLE HEART
WAS THE FIRST TIME...
TO THINK
I'D ALREADY HAVE SO MANY FEELINGS FOR HIM...
WHAT A SHELTERED LITTLE GIRL I AM.

THAT GIRL STILL ISN'T RECEIVING CUSTOMERS OR MAKING ANY DEALS.
IT'D BE GREAT IF THIS CONT -INUED FOR A LONG TIME...
IF YOU COMPARE HER TO YUKARI, SHE'S DOING WELL FOR HER AGE...
Ah!
HEH... THE FACT THAT THE LINE OF CUSTOMERS EVERY DAY WANTING AKANE WASN'T STOPPED MEANS
YOU WANT AKANE?
BECAUSE OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SEE AKANE'S FACE, ASAKENO'S CUSTOMERS HAVE ALSO INCREASED?
I'M SO SORRY...
PLEASE FOR -GIVE ME...
THAT'S PRETTY IMPRESSIVE
SHE'S CURRENTLY IN ASAKENO'S ROOM
I'LL GET SOMETHING TO WIPE IT UP...
SHE'S STILL A FURISODE SHINZOU SO SHE CAN'T TAKE CUSTOMERS YET
す
SFX: WHOOSH

AH, IF YOU DO THAT, WON'T YOUR CLOTHES GET WET.?
I DON'T MIND.
YUKARI.
SINCE YOU'RE OUR ELDER SISTER'S IMPORT -ANT PATRON
SMILE
DON'T TEASE THEM TOO MUCH.
I'LL BE BACK SOON
OUR OTHER GUESTS ARE QUITE BUSY TONIGHT TOO, AREN'T THEY?
HOW ADMIR -ABLE!
ASAKENO-SAN, A MOMENT
AKANE TOO
ALRIGHT, I'LL BUY YOU A NEW FURISODE~
GRAB

THUD
Owww
AKANE-CHAN,
EVEN IF AKANE-CHAN'S POPULAR,
AREN'T YOU BEING TOO REL -AXED IN NEE -SAN'S ROOM?
WHA
I'M SO, SO WORRIED THAT SHE'LL END UP SMASHING OUR NEE-SAN'S FACE...
Sniff Sniff
Haha
OH MY, YUKARI'S QUITE CUTE
WHILE YOU POUR SAKE FOR ME I'LL WAIT FOR YOU UNTIL YOU BECOME AN OIRAN~
EVER SINCE THAT NIGHT WHERE WE DEBUTED AS SHINZOU,
YUKARI-CHAN...
IT'S LIKE SHE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON.
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S BEEN SO KIND,

NEE-SAN,
PLEASE FOR-GIVE ME.
I WAS TOO RELAXED, AND SO...
FUFU...
SO YUKARI'S FINALLY TREATING YOU AS A RIVAL.
EH?
SHE'S TREATING YOU AS HER OPPONENT FOR THE HIGHEST POSITION,
AND TRYING TO GET AHEAD
EH....
DON'T TELL ME....
THAT'S YUKARI'S TRUE NATURE?!
WELL, AT THIS RATE,
THE WINNER'S CLEAR, THOUGH.
Ho Ho Ho
OH MY ASAKENO-SAN

CAN I HAVE A MOMENT?
I HAVE TO GO TO THE NEXT ROOM ...
IT'S JUST A MOMENT, LEND ME YOUR EAR.
...DO YOU AGREE?
THAT'S FINE
THEN, AKANE
IS THAT SO?
SO YOU DON'T NEED TO BE CONCERNED
THE ONE WHO MADE A PROMISE WITH THAT PER -SON'S ME,
YOU'RE HER REPLACEMENT.

"Replacement? That's.."
"It's when your nee-san isn't available, you take her place to entertain the customers."
"Hurry up and go."
EXCUSE ME,
YOUNG MASTER.

HEY.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, YOUNG MASTER
IT'S NOT -HING
WHAT'S WITH YOUR NOSE?
IT'S ALL RED
YOU'RE PRETTY DISAGREEABLE, AREN'T YOU
EH?
AND WAS DIFFICULT TO MEET WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?
THE ONE WHO JUST STARTED ENTER -TAINING

THEY SAID THAT YOU WEREN'T TAKING CUST-OMERS.
OR THAT IT WAS NO GOOD SINCE I WASN'T ONE OF ASAKENO'S CUSTOMERS
SAYING "THE CUSTOMS OF THE DISTRICT ARE LIKE THIS, OR LIKE THAT"
THEY SHOULD ALL JUST STUFF IT!
I MANAGED TO GET IT SO THAT WHEN I COME HERE TO VISIT
YOU'LL DEFINITELY REPLACE HER.
.....
YOU'RE TOO FORCEFUL.
I DO WHAT-EVER I WANT.
HMPH.
YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE WORKING.

PLEASE RES -PECT THAT
HOWEVER, TRYING TO LAY YOUR HANDS ON A SHINZOU'S FORBIDDEN
...I SUPPOSE
WE'LL SEE.
grin
DO YOU UNDER -STAND WHAT KIND OF JOB BEING THE REPLACEMENT IS?
I'M DOING THIS IN NEE -SAN'S PLACE
IT'S NOT JUST KEEPING ME COM -PANY WHILE I DRINK

IT'S ALSO SLEEPING WITH THE GUEST INSIDE A SINGLE FUTON.
SFX: GRABS
Ha?
I don't know abo-
IF IT COMES TO IT, I'M A MAN.
BEING TOLD IT'S FORBIDDEN
JUST MAKES ME WANT IT EVEN MORE.

I'LL SCREAM
blush
I'LL YELL AND CALL FOR SOMEONE
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COME IN HERE AGAIN
BESIDES, THE FINE FOR CAUSING TROUBLE IS 100 RYOU
I GET IT,
SO JUST STAY QUIET
Sigh
AH,
I STILL HAVEN'T THANKED HIM FOR THAT TIME..
WELL, IT'S PROBABLY FINE
BY THE WAY, I HEARD
FOR THE PEOPLE WHO CUT YOUR OBI
THAT YOU SAID NOT TO SEARCH

SOMETHING UNFORT-UNATE HAPPENED DURING YOUR LONG AWAITED DEBUT
DON'T YOU HATE THEM?
WHY?

EVEN THOUGH THEY ENTERED THIS SHOP AFTER I DID
THERE WERE GIRLS WHO WERE ALREADY LINED UP BEHIND THE BARS
A GIRL WHO HAD BECOME A SHINZOU WAS THERE
...SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN A KAMURO
SUDDENLY HAD HER OBI TIED INFRONT THE NEXT DAY

I REALIZED IT THEN.
THAT IT WAS ONLY NATURAL FOR THEM TO BE JEALOUS.
ONLY A CERTAIN FEW,
LIKE ME, WILL GET TO HAVE SUCH A SPECTACULAR DEBUT
PROBABLY ONE OF THEM DID IT.
"I won't let it go her way"
IF THEY HAD BEEN FOUND IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE ENDED WITH JUST A SCOLDING.
AN EVEN HARSHER LIFE WOULD BE WAITING FOR THEM
IF THEY ENDED UP BEING SENT TO A LOWER RANK SHOP
OR SEVERELY PUNISHING OTHERS FOR SMALL FAIL -INGS,
YELLING AND MAKING A COMMOTION,
I UNDERSTOOD THAT.

ISN'T SOMETHING THAT THE LUCKY ONES SHOULD DO.
....AS EXPECTED OF
THE YOUNG LADY FROM A WARRIOR HOUSE
blush
HE'S BEING SARCASTIC AGA...

JUST WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO POUR ME SOME SAKE.
gasp
AH
OI.
I MESSED UP EARLIER!
Sorry!
OI, WHAT'S WITH THAT SHAKY POUR -ING
SPLASH
AH,
clatter clatter
MY HAND'S SHAKING

AH...
More.
Not again!
I'M GOING TO BE SCOLD -ED...
SLAP

DON'T GO TRYING TO LEARN WEIRD TRICKS.
...Ugh!

.....
HMM?
YOU...
splash
YOU'RE CRAPPY AT THIS

Ahahaha
Kyaa!
Kyaa!
I yearn for thee
Where art thou? Where art thou?
I wouldn't have been sad if they really abandoned her
fwsssshh
"A SUMMER BREEZE COMES FROM THE SOUTH," IS IT...

THAT REMINDS ME, I HAVEN'T HAD ANY OF THE FIRST BONITO THIS SEASON
HAVE YOU?
I HAVEN'T.
.....

SFX: POURING
あああああ
THE WEATHER HAS BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE MORN -ING
IT'S BECAUSE THE BIG SPENDER, MATSUZAKA, IS ENTER -TAINING GUESTS RIGHT NOW
BUT ASAKENO'S ROOM'S THIS LIVELY
THERE ARE GEISHA AND MALE ENTERTAINERS TOO. BECAUSE HE WANTED PAPER FLOWERS HE'S BEEN CALLING ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER
I PEEKED IN THERE EAR -LIER,
BUT DOESN'T IT SEEM UNPLE -ASANT?
IF I REMEMBER, ONE OF THE SAMURAI BEING ENTERTAINED IN THERE WAS NAMED MITSUHASHI
MITSUHASHI HYOUE, OR SOME -THING
I THINK I HEARD A RUMOR THAT HE TRIED TO LAY HIS HANDS ON A FURI -SODE SHINZOU..

Mitsuhashi-sama's aiming for Akane
He might be planning to stay over for the whole night...!
Oi,
COULDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT EARLIER?

Brought to you by

summer rain

RAWS
Tsubaki

TRANSLATOR
Hiniku

PROOFREADER
Tsubaki

CLEANER
Tsubaki

TYPESETTER
Tsubaki

QC
Tsubaki

We need Japanese Translators!

http://summer-rainscanlations.tumblr.com/

https://www.facebook.com/SummerRainScanlations/

Woah...
SO MANY PRETTY MANGAS!
Waa
THIS IS WHERE THE SUMMER RAIN TEAM DOES THEIR MAGIC.
AND SCANLATE ALL YOUR FAVORITE SHOUJO MANGA!
Welcome to Summer Rain!
WHAT?! THEN WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
YEAH, IT'S NOT LIKE WE GET PAID TO TRANSLATE MANGA FOR YOU.
AH, BUT WAIT. IF YOU WANT TO READ MORE CUTE SHOUJO MANGA, YOU HAVE TO HELP US SOMEHOW.
OKAY?
Summer Rain
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THEY ACTUALLY DEDICATE THEIR TIME TO BRING MANGA JUST FOR ME!
I feel so bad for always asking them for faster updates
BUT YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW JAPANESE TO HELP US.
INFACT, MOST OF THIS MANGA WORK REQUIRES WHO KNOW HOW TO USE PHOTOSHOP.
Even if you don't know how to use photoshop you can help out by donating as well!
SIGN ME UP!
YEAH, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GO TO OUR TUMBLR

Visit us at:
http://summer-rainscanlations.tumblr.com/